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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Confirmation Number	2148
Application Number	09/966,447
Filing Date	September 28, 2001
First Named Inventor	David Christian Lenz
Group Art Unit	3773
Examiner Name	Melissa K. Ryckman
Attorney Docket Number	CRD0957USNP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Kind Code ²	Number (if known)			
		2002/0065557	A1	Goble, E. et al.	05-30-2002	
		4,455,690		Homsy, C.	06-26-1984	
		5,263,984	A	Li, S-T., et al.	11-23-1993	
		5,571,191	A	Fitz, W.	11-05-1996	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	KindCode ⁵				
		DE	20112123		Aesculap AG & Co., KG	10-31-2001	English translation	
		WO	00/53126	A1	Aesculap AG & Co., KG	09-14-2000		
		WO	02/065954	A1	Queen's University at Kingston	08-29-2002		
		WO	02/067793	A2	SDGI Holdings, Inc.	09-06-2002		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of U.S. Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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